

## LEA

2. To conduct as a commander.

Cyrus was beaten and slain under the *leading* of a woman, whole wit and conduct made a great figure in ancient story.

3. To shew the way, by going first.

He left his mother a countess by patent, which was a new *leading* example, grown before somewhat rare, since the days of queen Mary. *Wotton.*  
The way of maturing of tobacco must be from the heat of the earth or sun; we see some *leading* of this in muskmelons sown upon a hot-bed dunned below. *Bacon.*  
The vessels heavy-laden put to sea.

With prosperous verbs, and woman *leads* the way. *Dryden.*

LEAD. *n. f.* [from the verb.] Guidance; first place: a low despicable word.

Yorkshire takes the *lead* of the other countries. *Herring.*

LEADEN. *adj.* [leasen, Saxon.]

1. Made of lead.

This tiger-footed rage, when it shall find  
The harm of unkind'd swiftness, will, too late,  
Tye *leaden* pounds to 's heels. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus.*

O murtherous slumber!

Lay'st thou the *leaden* mace upon my boy,

That plays thee music. *Shakespeare's Julius Caesar.*

A *leaden* bullet shot from one of these guns against a stone wall, the space of twenty-four paces from it, will be beaten into a thin plate. *Wilkins's Mathematical Magick.*

2. Heavy; unwilling; motionless.

If thou dost find him tractable to us,

Encourage him, and tell him all our reasons:

If he be *leaden*, icy, cold, unwilling,

Be thou too. *Shakespeare's Rich. III.*

3. Heavy; dull.

I'll strive with troubled thoughts to take a nap;

Left *leaden* slumber poize me down to-morrow,

When I should mount with wings of victory. *Shakespeare.*

LEADER. *n. f.* [from *lead*.]

1. One that leads, or conducts.

2. Captain; commander.

In my tent

I'll draw the form and model of our battle,

Limit each *leader* to his several charge, *Shakespeare.*

And part in just proportion our small strength.

I have given him for a *leader* and commander to the

people. *Iff. lv. 4.*

Those who escaped by flight excused their dishonour, not

without a sharp jest against some of their *leaders*, affirming,

that, as they had followed them into the field, so it was good

reason they should follow them out. *Hayward.*

When our Lycians see

Our brave examples, their admiring say,

Behold our gallant *leaders*. *Denham.*

The brave *leader* of the Lycian crew. *Dryden.*

One who goes first.

Nay keep your way, little gallant; you were wont to be a

follower now you are a *leader*. *Shakespeare.*

4. One at the head of any party or faction: as the detestable

Wharton was the *leader* of the whigs.

The understandings of a senate are enlivened by three or four

*leaders*, set to get or to keep employments. *Swift.*

LEADING. *participial adj.* Principal.

In organized bodies, which are propagated by seed, the

shape is the *leading* quality, and most characteristic part,

that determines the species. *Lake.*

Mistakes arise from the influence of private persons upon

great numbers stiled *leading* men and parties. *Swift.*

LEADING-STRINGS. *n. f.* [lead and string.] Strings by which

children, when they learn to walk, are held from falling.

Sound may serve such, ere they to sense are grown,

Like *leading-strings*, 'till they can walk alone. *Dryden.*

Was he ever able to walk without *leading-strings*, or swim

without bladders, without being discovered by his hobbling

and his sinking? *Swift.*

LEADMAN. *n. f.* [lead and man.] One who begins or leads a

dance.

Such a light and mett'd dance

Saw you never,

And by *leadmen* for the nonce,

That turn round like grindle stones. *Benj. Johnson.*

LEADWORT. *n. f.* [lead and wort.]

This flower consists of one leaf, which is shaped like a

funnel, and cut into several segments at the top, out of

whole fistulous flower-cup rises the point, which afterward

becomes one oblong seed, for the most part sharp-pointed,

which ripens in the flower-cup. *Miller.*

LEAF. *n. f.* leaves, plural. [leaf, Saxon; leaf, Dutch.]

1. The green deciduous parts of plants and flowers.

This is the state of man; to-day he puts forth

The tender *leaves* of hopes, to-morrow blossoms. *Shakespeare.*

A man shall seldom fail of having cherries borne by his

graft the same year in which his incision is made, if his

graft have blossom buds; whereas if it were only *leaf* buds,

it will not bear fruit till the second season. *Boyle.*

Those things which are removed to a distant view, ought to make but one *leaf*; as the *leaves* on the trees, and the billows in the sea. *Dryden's Duynreyn.*

2. A part of a book, containing two pages.

Happy ye *leaves*, when as those lily hands

Shall handle you. *Shakespeare.*

Peruse my *leaves* through ev'ry part,

And think thou seest my owner's heart

Scrawl'd o'er with trifles. *Swift.*

3. One side of a double door.

The two *leaves* of the one door were folding. *1 Kings.*

4. Any thing foliated, or thinly beaten.

Eleven ounces two pence sterling ought to be of so pure

silver, as is called *leaf* silver, and then the melter must add

of other weight seventeen pence halfpenny farthing. *Camden.*

*Leaf* gold, that flies in the air as light as down, is as

truly gold as that in an ingot. *Digby on Bodies.*

To LEAF. *v. n.* [from the noun.] To bring leaves; to bear

leaves.

Most trees sprout, and fall off the *leaves* at autumn; and

if not kept back by cold, would *leaf* about the solstice.

Bare houghs without some other adornment, being looked

on as a *leafy* tree, nobody will take himself to its shelter.

Where doves in flocks the *leafy* trees o'er shade, *Pope.*

And lonely woodcocks haunt the wat'ry glade. *Pope.*

LEAFLESS. *adj.* [from *leaf*.] Naked of leaves.

Since summer was first *leafy*. *Shakespeare.*

What chance, good lady, hath bereft you thus?

—Dim darkness, and this *leafy* labyrinth. *Milton.*

O'er barren mountains, o'er the flow'ry plain,

The *leafy* forest, and the liquid main,

Extends thy uncontrol'd and boundless reign. *Dryden.*

Her *leafy* arms with such extent were spread,

That hofs of birds, that wing the liquid air,

Perch'd in the boughs. *Dryden's Flower and Leaf.*

So what some fowl-travellers retire

To *leafy* shades, near the cool funnels verge

Of Paraba, Brazilian stream; her tail

A grisly hydra suddenly shoots forth. *Philips.*

LEAGUE. *n. f.* [Ligue, French; ligo, Latin.]

1. A confederacy; a combination.

You peers, continue this united *league*:

I every day expect an embassy

From my Redeemer, to redeem me hence.

And now in peace my soul shall part to heav'n,

Since I have made my friends at peace on earth. *Shakespeare.*

We come to be informed by yourselves,

What the conditions of that *league* must be. *Shakespeare.*

Thou shalt be in *league* with the stones of the field; and

the beasts of the field shall be at peace with thee. *Job. v. 23.*

Go break thy *league* with Basitha, that he may depart from

me. *2 Chron. xvi. 3.*

It is a great error, and a narrowness of mind, to think,

that nations have nothing to do one with another, except

they be either an union in sovereignty, or a conjunction in

pacts or *leagues*: there are other bands of society and implicit

confederations. *Bacon's Holy War.*

I, a private person, whom my country

As a *league* breaker gave up bound, presum'd

Single rebellion, and did hostile acts. *Milton's Agonistes.*

Oh Tyrians, with immortal hate

Pursue this race: let there be

'T wixt us and them no *league* nor amity. *Denham.*

To LEAGUE. *v. n.* To unite; to confederate.

Where fraud and falsehood invade society, the band pre-

sently breaks, and men are put to a loss where to *league* and

to fasten their dependances. *South's Sermons.*

LEAGUE. *n. f.* [lieu, French.]

1. A league; *leuca*, Latin; from *lech*, Welsh; a stone that

was used to be erected at the end of every league. *Camden.*

2. A measure of length, containing three miles.

Ere the ships could meet by twice five leagues,

We were encount'rd by a mighty rock. *Shakespeare.*

Ev'n Italy, though many a league remote,

In distant echo's answer'd. *Adelphi.*

LEAGUED. *adj.* [from *league*.] Confederated.

And now thus *leagu'd* by an eternal bond,

What shall retard the Britons bold designs. *Philips.*

LEAGUER. *n. f.* [belegeren, Dutch.] Siege; investment of a

town.

We will bind and hoodwink him so, that he shall suppose

no other but that he is carried into the *leaguer* of the adver-

saries, when we bring him to our own tents. *Shakespeare.*

LEAK. *n. f.* [lech, Dutch.] A breach or hole which lets

in water.

There will be always evils, which no art of man can

cure; breaches and *leaks* more than man's wit hath hands

to stop. *Hobbes.*

## LEA

The water rushes in, as it doth usually in the *leak* of a ship. *Wilkins's Mathematical Magick.*

Whether she sprung a *leak* I cannot find,

Or whether she was over set with wind,

Or that some rock below her bottom rent,

But down at once with all her crew she went. *Dryden.*

To LEAK. *v. n.*

1. To let water in or out.

They will allow us ne'er a jordan, and then we *leak* in your

chimney. *Shakespeare.*

The water, which will perhaps by degrees *leak* into several

parts, may be emptied out again. *Wilkins's Math. Magick.*

His feet should be washed every day in cold water; and

have his shoes so thin, that they might *leak*, and let in

water. *Locke.*

2. To drop through a breach.

Golden stars hung o'er their heads,

And seem'd to crowd, that they burst upon 'em,

And dart at once their baleful influence

In *leaking* fire. *Dryden's and Lee's Oedipus.*

LEAKAGE. *n. f.* [from *leak*.] Allowance made for accidental

loss in liquid measures.

LEAKY. *adj.* [from *leak*.]

1. Battered or pierced, so as to let water in or out.

Thou'rt so *leaky*,

That we must leave thee to thy sinking; for

Thy dearst quit thee. *Shakespeare's Antony and Cleopatra.*

If you have not enjoy'd what youth could give,

But life funk through you like a *leaky* sieve,

Accuse yourself, you liv'd not while you might. *Dryden.*

2. Loquacious; not close.

Women are so *leaky*, that I have hardly met with one

that could not hold her breath longer than she could keep a

secret. *L'Estrange.*

To LEAN. *v. n.* *peter. leant or leant.* [planan, Saxon; leana, Dutch.]

1. To incline against; to rest against.

*Lean* thine aged back against mine arm,

And in that case I'll tell thee my disease. *Shakespeare.*

Security is express'd among the medals of Gordianus, by a

lady *leaning* against a pillar, a scepter in her hand, before

an altar. *Peasam on Drawing.*

The columns may be allowed somewhat above their ordi-

nary length, because they *lean* unto so good supporters. *Wotti.*

Upon his iv'ry sceptre first he *leans*,

Then shook his head, that shook the firmament. *Dryden.*

Oppress'd with anguish, panting and o'erspent,

His fainting limbs against an oak he *leans*. *Dryden's Æn.*

If he be angry, all our other dependencies will profit us no

thing; every other support will fail under us when we come

to *lean* upon it, and deceive us in the day when we want it

most. *Rogers's Sermons.*

Then *leaning* o'er the rails he musing stood.

Mid the central depth of black'ning woods,

High rais'd in solemn theatre around

*Leant* the huge elephant. *Thomson's Summer.*

2. To propend; to tend towards.

They delight rather to *lean* to their old customs, though

they be more unjust, and more inconvenient. *Spenser.*

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and *lean* not unto

thine own understanding. *Prov. iii. 5.*

A desire *leaning* to either side, biases the judgment strange-

ly. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*

3. To be in a bending posture.

She *leans* me out at her mistress's chamber window, bids

me a thousand times good night. *Shakespeare.*

Wearied with length of ways, and worn with toil,

She laid her down; and *leaning* on her knees,

Invok'd the cause of all her miseries. *Dryden.*